

**Testimony of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health  
Wednesday, March 4, 2020  
9:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 523, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, DAVID KERN,  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2024**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Christopher Fernandez, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Dr. David Kern's reappointment to the Board as a naturopathic physician member.

Dr. Kern was appointed to the Board on an interim basis on October 1, 2016. He has been licensed as a naturopathic physician license in Hawaii since March 4, 1985, and his license is current, active, and in good standing.

Dr. Kern is the owner and director of Grace Health Centers, which was founded in 1985 and has multiple offices on Maui. He is very familiar with the Board's responsibilities and tasks, having previously served multiple terms as a board member. Dr. Kern serves as the Board's chairperson and understands the duties involved in granting, suspending, and revoking licenses, promulgating administrative rules, and enforcing provisions governing the State's regulation of naturopathic physicians. He understands the expectation that board members regularly attend and participate in the Board's functions. Importantly, Dr. Kern continues to express a strong interest in participating in policy and consumer protection issues at the board level.

The Board believes that Dr. Kern's combination of experience, enthusiasm, and commitment to public service continue to make him a strong choice for reappointment to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

In support of Dr. David Kern

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this email in support of David Kern, ND as member on the Hawaii Board of Naturopathic Medicine.

Having known him closely for 10+ years and having met most of the naturopaths in the state, I believe he is in the best position to represent the naturopathic community due to his skill set, understanding the history of our medicine in Hawaii and having the personal communication skills to best articulate and advocate on our behalf.

Thank you for your time,

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Dr. Travis Thurston  
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**From:** [Michael Traub](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Sen. Roz Baker](#)  
**Subject:** GM number 523  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 6:38:02 AM

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Re: Letter of support for David Kern ND re-appointment to Board of Naturopathic Medicine

I have known Dr. Kern as a friend and colleague for over 30 years. We have worked together during that time on both the Board of Naturopathic Medicine and the Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Medicine. Dr. Kern is committed to ensuring the highest standards for the naturopathic profession in Hawaii, as shown by his many years' of involvement. His willingness to continue to serve in his capacity as a member of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine is commendable and I strongly support his nomination.

Mahalo,

Michael Traub ND

Michael Traub ND, FABNO  
Medical Director  
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**From:** [Laurie Steelsmith](#)  
**To:** [CPH Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** GM523 Letter of Support  
**Date:** Monday, March 2, 2020 7:54:37 PM

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To Whom this May Concern,

I am writing to ask you to support the nomination of Dr. David Kern, licensed naturopathic physician and licensed acupuncturist, to the State Board of Naturopathic Medicine for another term. Dr. Kern has been in practice for 40 years and has served on the State Board of Naturopathic Medicine many times in the past. He is also past president of The Hawaii Society of Naturopathic Physicians, and is a leader in our profession. He is a highly respected naturopathic doctor, and tirelessly serves his patients and the naturopathic community. He has been a consistent and reliable representative of naturopathic medicine in Hawaii. Please nominate Dr. Kern for another term on the State Board of Naturopathic Medicine.

Sincerely Yours,  
Dr. Laurie Steelsmith N.D., L.Ac.

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